

**WKU KYVL STUDENT FOCUS GROUP
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NOTES

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Tell us who you are (first name only!) and why you use library databases in general

Harika, an MBA student, uses the databases for **research and homework** assignments.

Renee, a student who works in the Reference department, uses the databases for **homework** and also for her **work** to help patrons in Reference.

Jessica, another Reference student worker, uses the databases for **homework** and to help patrons.

Debra, a student who works full time in the ILL office, uses the databases for her **classes** and to verify citations for her **job** in ILL.

Lori, a freshman, uses the databases for **homework** assignments.

Jan, is a graduate student finishing a master's degree in Library Media Education. In answer to the question why you use the library databases, she responded, "Why wouldn't I! It saves me hours, first in parking; it's instantaneous in finding the material I'm looking for. It's so quick!"

Have you used the Kentucky Virtual Library databases? Why or why not?

Harika uses mostly EBSCO, especially Business Source Premier and Academic Search Elite.

Renee uses **Academic Search Elite** and **MasterFile Premier** in EBSCO all the time for research as well as helping patrons in Reference. Also uses **ERIC** in FirstSearch a lot when helping students in Reference.

Jessica – "I probably use all the databases at some point in time working in Reference with students or just doing my own research." But what I use the most for my own purposes is Music Literature and **WorldCat** in FirstSearch. [Note: WKU funds and provides access to Music Literature, which is not provided by KYVL].

Debra uses **Article1st**, **Contents1st**, **Medline**, **PapersFirst**, **Proceedings1st** and **WorldCat** in FirstSearch; and **PsycINFO** and **Newspaper Source** in EBSCO (the latter, newspaper, for personal interest, the others for ILL verification).

Lori, uses EBSCOhost to get articles for her speech class. When asked which specific databases, she responded, "I just play around with it!"

Jan uses **EBSCO**, **BIP**, **ERIC** and the **OCLC** databases.

Jessica, who earlier stated she uses most of the KYVL databases, added that she really was partial to InfoTrac and hated to see it go since, "Honestly, it's so much more user friendly than EBSCO. Helping students, I have so many complaints that EBSCO is so much more difficult to use. They liked InfoTrac better and so did I!"

Which databases do you use the most frequently?

Harika, **Business Source Premier**

Renee, **EBSCOhost**

Jan, **EBSCOhost** constantly

Jessica uses FirstSearch, especially **Music Literature** (a non-KYVL databases funded by WKU) and **WorldCat**.

Debra, **Article1st** and **WorldCat**.

Lori, **EBSCOhost**

What has been particularly helpful about the databases?

Harika, actually didn't find very helpful in her specialized business (marketing) searches. Found northernlight.com more helpful!

Renee likes the **full text**.

Jan likes the **full text** and the **ease of getting material**. "I have access to materials that I probably wouldn't locate otherwise."

Jessica, "I just like looking things up on the computer! When I need something to do or I'm just bored I can look up the topic I'm interested in."

Debra, likes the **advanced search options** to expedite verifying citations.

Lori, likes to know what's in the library before coming in.

What has been frustrating about the KYVL databases?

Harika, **lack of coverage** in **specialized business areas** such as marketing.

Renee, need to learn the right way to **construct your search** to get useful results.

Jan, I had two librarians show me how to properly search and get good results.

Jessica, **not enough coverage in music**; doesn't cover specialized subjects.

Lori, **having to know the right terms** to use.

What subject areas would you like to see better covered in the KYVL databases?

Harika, **business**

Renee, **business**

Jan, "It really meets most of my needs for my area. I need to know a little bit about everything. And it is especially good because it picks up so many professional journals. It does for me real well!"

Jessica, **fine arts** and **performing arts**.

Debra, **science** and **chemistry**.

Lori, a freshman, stated, "I found plenty for my needs."

Do you know of a specific database that you think should be added?

Harika, **northernlight.com**

Renee, **ABI/INFORM** (a non-KYVL database currently funded and provided by WKU from ProQuest).

Jessica, **InfoTrac** and **Music Literature**

Debra, **ECO** but **with the full text** that we don't get now (WKU Libraries does not pay the additional fee per title to allow the full text access); and **ScienceDirect Web**. (Note: it was explained that the Voyager catalog will soon be providing access to the full text of the current year of any Elsevier journals the library subscribes to).